

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 /094 W
-----142057Z 066109 /73

R 141559Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
SECSTATE WASHDC 635

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4532

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, SP
SUBJECT: CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT-MPAIAC

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3681 (NOTAL)

1. MPAIAC-THE MOVEMENT FOR THE SELF-DETERMINATION AND
INDEPENGE OF THE CANARY ARCHIPELAGO-IS THE CREATURE OF
ANTONIO CUBILLO, A CANARIAN LONG RESIDENT IN ALGIERS, WHERE
HE ENJOYS HAVEN AND SOME ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING ONE HOUR PER
NIGHT OF RADIO TIME. (THE USUAL OFFICIAL GOA STAND IS THAT
CUBILLO IS AN FLN, NOT A GOA, MATTER).

2. PREVIOUSLY DISMISSED BY SPANISH OFFICIALS AS A BUFFOON
WITH NO FOLLOWING IN THE CANARIES, CUBILLO (AND ALGERIAN
HOSPITALITY) DREW GOS IRE WHEN HE BROADCAST THE COMMUNIQUE
OF AN OBSCURE SPANISH TERRORIST GROUP (GRAPO) CLAIMING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHOOTING OF POLICEMEN HERE AT THE
END OF JANUARY (GRAPO HAD ALSO KIDNAPPED TWO HIGH OFFICIALS,
WHO WERE LATER RESCUED UNHARMED BY POLICE). SPANISH
ANGER DEEPENED WHEN AN EXPLOSION CLAIMED BY CUBILLO
AT GRAND CANARY'S AIRPORT FORCED THE DIVERSION TO TENERIFE
OF THE PAN AM AND KLM JUMBOS WHICH COLLIDED THERE IN
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HISTORY'S WORST AVIATION DISASTER.

3. WHILE THE GOS REPORTEDLY TOOK A STIFF LINE WITH THE
GOA ON CUBILLO, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT IT GOT ANY REAL
SATISFACTION, AND EMBASSY ALGIERS HAS JUST REPORTED THAT
CUBILLO RETURNED TO THE AIR AFTER A PERIOD OF SILENCE
ATTRIBUTED TO REPAIR OF THE TRANSMITTER.

4. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS THAT GOS IS WRONG CONCERNING CUBILLO'S LACK OF SUPPORT IN THE CANARIES. THE SPANISH PRESS, INCLUDING PERIODICALS SYMPATHETIC TO SUCH CAUSES, HAVE NOT TREATED HIM SERIOUSLY, AND NO SPANISH POLITICAL PARTY OF ANY STRIPE BACKS HIS CAUSE. HE TAKES CREDIT FOR THE OCCASIONAL BOMBING IN THE ISLANDS, AND HIS CLAIMS IN THIS REGARD HAVE NOT BEEN DISPUTED, BUT THE CAPACITY OF HIS FOLLOWERS (MANY OF WHOM WERE ARRESTED IN GOVERNMENT SWEEP SOME MONTHS AGO) DOES NOT APPEAR TO GO BEYOND SUCH SPORADIC, ALTHOUGH DISTURBING, ACTIONS.

5. OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US AND/OR NATO ARE PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN THE CANARIES. THESE RUMORS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY DENIED BY US AND THE GOS. THE SPANISH NAVY IS MOVING TO REPLACE ITS OUT-MODED, OVERCROWED FACILITY IN LAS PALMAS (GRAND CANARY) AT ANOTHER POINT ON THE ISLAND. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770212-0676
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770660/aaaacabg.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 039cc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 3681
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2163537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT-MPAIAC
TAGS: PORG, SP, OAU
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/039cc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009